



Report of Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2005

West Cassia Soil and Water Conservation District

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Counties Served Cassia County

Legislative District(s) 27

Conservation District Mission

- To set high standards for conservation of natural resources. To encourage cooperation among landowners, government agencies, private organizations, and elected officials to accomplish conservation goals. To educate both youth and adult in conservation practices and needs.

Natural Resource Improvements Summary

Covering all of Cassia County:

- 159 Best Management Practices in various stages of implementation or completed for fiscal year 2005.
- 75 active EQIP contracts under implementation which include 28 new contracts for FY05 with the new 2005 funding at \$869,851.
- 176 current CRP Contracts covering 50,872 acres bringing \$1,599,752 into the county.
- Provide general technical assistance to approximately 250 to 300 landowners each year.



Above: Shoreline Stabilization Project Site

West Cassia Soil and Water Conservation District:

- Approx. 46% of all Cassia Co. Contracts, in various stages of implementation on irrigated land improvements.
- Big Cottonwood Creek Piping Cost Share Project, received \$15,000 SCC money plus \$24,644 in EQIP money.
- Shoreline Stabilization and Riparian Restoration Project on the Snake River, received \$55,350 in grant money.

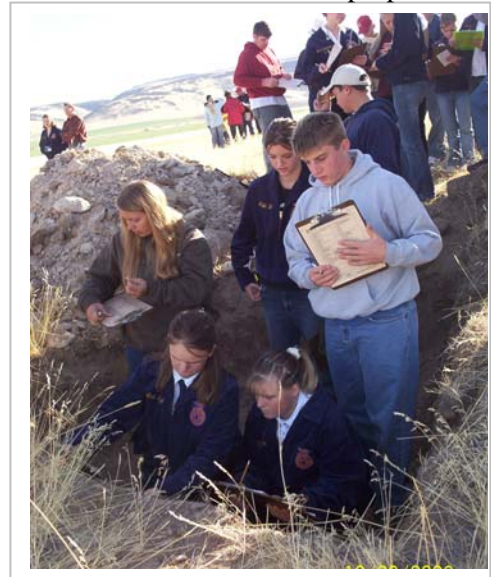
Conservation District Priority # 1 District Operations

- Board meetings held monthly which are open to the public and the media. Revision of the Annual Plan and 5-year Resource Conservation Plan completed yearly, budgets and financial statements are reviewed.
- Met with County Commissioners to review the proposed budget as a basis for requesting county funding.
- Representation to the Legislative Luncheon (Jan.) Division IV Meetings (Mar. & Oct.), and the IASCD Conference (Nov.). Board members study potential or existing legislation that impacts the district and draft appropriate legislation for presentation at the IASCD annual conference.

Conservation District Priority #2 Information & Education / Public Outreach

- 814 local landowners receive Quarterly Newsletters including an Annual Report of work activities accomplished during the fiscal year. Each newsletter holds information on activities, practices and conservation improvements.

- Annual Awards Banquet held to honor a Cooperator of the Year, and other worthy conservation awards are presented.
- Manage the Annual Tree Sale providing seedling trees for windbreaks and other conservation purposes.
- Co-sponsor / Host the **Idaho State Land & Soil Evaluation Event** for 4-H and FFA students. (pictured at right) →
- Approximately 800+ school age students receive information, receive scholarship funding, and participate in the following educational activities: Natural Resources Workshop Camp, Know Your Government, 5th & 6th grade Poster Contest, High School Speech Contest, Envirothon, and the district provides 2 annual Scholarship Awards to graduating seniors.



Conservation District Priority # 3 Water Resources

- Shoreline Stabilization and Riparian Restoration of the Milner Lake Segment of the Snake River Cassia County Project, covering ½ mile of river bank with 1,550 feet of rock and shoreline stabilization work, \$55,350 grant money received.
- Big Cottonwood Creek Piping Cost Share Project, received \$15,000 SCC money plus \$24,644 in EQIP money.
- Encourage good conservation practices which reduce water and dust erosion, conversion to sprinkler systems, promoting the benefits of crop residue, conservation tillage, and cross slope farming practices.
- Promote animal waste management practices including odor and pest controls, and nitrate and phosphate levels. Support Animal Waste Composting efforts through conservation plans and providing information to the public. Encourage use of BMP's.

Conservation District Priority # 3 Pasture and Hay

- Educate the landowners concerning rotation techniques to improve yields.
- Approximately 46% of Cassia County's 159 BMP's are for West Cassia and are currently in various stages of implementation. They include watering improvements and irrigating practices that reduce erosion and provide optimum moisture for crops.
- Encourage use of windbreaks to control erosion through the annual seedling tree sale and assistance of East Cassia's windbreak clean-up efforts.
- Newsletters provided information regarding noxious weeds and stressed weed control practices.

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- Member/Sponsor of the Mid-Snake R C & D.
- Member of the WAG and BAG Committees.
- DEQ Groundwater Study Committee compiling Cassia County's Groundwater Quality Management Plan.

Synopsis of Assistance Coordinated for Constituents with Conservation Partners - to plan, design and implement best management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve Idaho's renewable natural resources.

Source	Purpose/Benefit	Funded Amount
Cassia County	County Funding for District Operations	\$ 2,500.00
State of Idaho	District Operations	\$ 8,068.80
EQIP Contract Funding (total for all of Cassia County)	Implementation of Conservation Plans	\$ 869,851.00
319 Grant Money	Stabilize Snake River Shoreline	\$ 55,350.00
EQIP & WQPA Project money	Pipeline Project	\$ 39,644.00
CRP (total for all of Cassia Co.)		\$ 1,599,752.00
Total Funding:		\$ 2,575,165.80